

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 11 and 15.

Please amend Claims 10 and 14. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

- B¹
10. (Amended) A method of maintaining or inducing hair color in a mammal, said method comprising inhibiting p75 nerve growth factor receptor-mediated apoptosis in epidermal melanocytes wherein the apoptosis is inhibited by contacting the melanocytes with a neurotrophin or a biologically active fragment thereof that binds to the p75 nerve growth factor receptor expressed on melanocytes.

- B²
14. (Amended) A method of inducing or maintaining skin color in a vertebrate comprising inhibiting p75 nerve growth factor receptor-mediated apoptosis in epidermal melanocytes wherein apoptosis is inhibited by contacting the melanocytes with a neurotrophin or a biologically active fragment thereof that binds to the p75 nerve growth factor receptor expressed on melanocytes.

✓
Please add new Claims 33-38.

- B³
33. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the neurotrophin is nerve growth factor, neurotrophin-3, neurotrophin 4/5 or brain-derived neurotrophic factor.
34. (New) The method of Claim 10 wherein the biologically active fragment is a peptide comprising amino acid sequence lysine-glycine-alanine.
35. (New) The method of Claim 34 wherein the peptide consists of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10.